

NOVEMBER 2015



The Bay Leaf

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY • EAST BAY CHAPTER

WWW.EBCNPS.ORG

PLANT FAIR ATTRACTS NATIVE AFICIONADOS

A huge thank you to our Fair Coordinator Steve Toby, the EBC-NPS Board, our 60+ volunteers, and all our loyal customers who came together for the 2015 Native Plant Fair. On Sunday the Possum Family Singers brought a joyous atmosphere to the fair, while children enjoyed treasure hunts, face painting, and art activities. Scores of new native plant lovers visited the nursery and were inspired by the knowledge shared by our native plant experts. Many native plants found their way to a new home, where they'll bring along the spirit of the wild to gardens throughout the East Bay and beyond.

We have been working on creating educational signage for the nursery. Soon you'll be able to learn about the medicinal

uses of our East Bay native plants and perhaps be inspired to plant a few native medicinals in your garden, thanks to our fabulous volunteer Jill Cunningham, a student at the Ohlone Herbal Center. We're still seeking out volunteers knowledgeable about plants that benefit pollinators and wildlife as well as local edible enthusiasts who would be excited to help produce signs to teach our customers about these special plants.

The nursery needs you and your friends to volunteer. Many plants are waiting for eager hands to pot them up, and even more seeds are ready to be sown, but we could use the help to make it happen. We also have many opportunities for waterers, even throughout the winter months. Come in when you

continued on page 2



Nursery manager Selena Rowan and Plant Fair Coordinator Steve Toby at the Plant Fair. Photo by Joe Willingham.

PLANT FAIR REPORT, CONTINUED

can or make a weekly commitment and you can support the nursery in an invaluable way. Contact me at srowan@cnps.org if you have any questions about how you can participate.

Stay tuned for some exciting updates, as we are in the process of developing an internship program aimed to connect more youth with the plants. We're also planning a Valentine's Weekend Sale – details are forthcoming, but will include special benefits for CNPS members.

The nursery still has a bounty of plants available, so come visit us throughout the fall and beyond and get your plant lists filled for the fall planting season.

*Selena Rowan
Manager
Native Here Nursery*



Nursery seed collector Gregg Weber, nursery manager Selena Rowan, and nursery founder Charli Danielsen at the Plant Fair. Photo by Joe Willingham.

MORE PLANT FAIR PHOTOS



Clockwise from top left: (1) Janice Bray, (2) Phil Leitner, (3) the Possum Family Singers entertaining on Sunday, (4) general view, (5) customer at the information table. Photos 1 and 2 by Joe Willingham, 3, 4, and 5 by Janice Bray.



MEMBERS' MEETING



Poison oak Photo by Tony Iwane

Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 pm

Poison Oak!

Speaker: Sue Rosenthal

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Library (see directions below)

Back in 1959, Regional Parks Botanic Garden director Jim Roof wrote about poison oak's value and limitations as a landscape plant. "[It is one] of our loveliest native CA shrubs. The new leaves, as they emerge in spring, are a bright-glossy red; the old leaves, in September and October are a lovely scarlet. The shrub should be more widely used in the native landscape design. It has only one drawback: it is deciduous in winter." Some of us might have other reasons for not planting it in our gardens, but poison oak and its relatives in the U.S. and around the world are worthy of admiration for their adaptability, habitat value, and even usefulness to humans. Join us

to make a closer acquaintance with the plant we love to hate. You'll come away with greater understanding, respect, and even appreciation for this ubiquitous California native—all from a safe distance.

Sue Rosenthal is the East Bay CNPS programs chair. After several very unpleasant experiences with the negative aspects of poison oak, she decided knowledge is preferable to fear and dove into poison oak facts and lore. She emerged with the same lack of immunity to the plant, but thanks to her improved attitude, she hasn't had another serious P.O. rash (yet).

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Email sr0433@yahoo.com or call 510-496-6016 if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way. From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

No meeting in December (happy holidays!)

We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us even in our soundest sleep. I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavour. It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a statue, and so to make a few objects beautiful; but it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do. To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts.

Henry David Thoreau, Walden

NOVEMBER RESTORATION

East Bay Chapter CNPS

Saturday, November 7, 9:30 am, Point Isabel

Meet at the end of Rydin Road, where crews will fan out and take on several restoration projects along the Bay Trail.

Sunday, November 8, 9:30 am, Redwood Regional Park

You now need to call ahead and register for the French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) removal crews. Call (888) 327-2757 and choose option 3, and then extension 4553.

Saturday, November 14, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

You are not required to pre-register for this event, but you can RSVP at www.Meetup.com/ebcnps, which is also a place where you can post any comments or queries. We will meet the parking lot off Skyline, where we will check the soil and weather to decide what work to take on. We will work through light rain, but torrential rain will cancel.

Sunday, November 15, 9:00 am (note start time), Sibley Regional Park

November puts the 2nd Saturday and 3d Sunday restoration crews back-to-back. We will meet at the Oakland-side parking lot (off Skyline), where you can meet park staff, sign up, and pick up snacks and water. If you want to park at the Old Tunnel Road staging area instead (Berkeley/Orinda side), be sure to let us know by e-mailing either sibley@ebparks.org or janetgawthrop47@gmail.com. Only torrential rain will cancel.

Friends of Sausal Creek

Wednesday, November 4, 6 pm to 8 pm, Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Drought Management Workshop, UC Berkeley, 159 Mulford Hall Hear the results of last spring's SOD Blitz in the East Bay as well as new management recommendations. See www.sodblitz.org for more info.

Sunday, November 29, 10 am to 2 pm, Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) Trail Stewardship Crew Join FOSC's new monthly crew to restore trails in Dimond Canyon and Joaquin Miller Park. See www.sausalcreek.org > Programs > Event Calendar for details.

Kimra McAfee, Executive Director
Friends of Sausal Creek
P.O. Box 2737
Oakland, CA 94602

510.501.FOSC (3672)
coordinator@sausalcreek.org
www.sausalcreek.org

SPAWNERS

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, November 14, 9:30 am to noon, Wilkie Creek site, De Anza Drive and Santa Rita Way, El Sobrante

Help take care of one of our native plant restoration sites. People with all levels of experience are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear sturdy shoes, comfortable work clothes, and bring a water bottle. SPAWNERS will provide tools, gloves, and snacks.

Every volunteer must have a valid waiver on file. Volunteers under 18 must have their waivers signed by a parent or legal guardian. Click here for waiver forms and more information.

Saturday, November 28, 9:30 am to noon

Water Bug Team, El Sobrante Library
4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante

Have you ever wondered what lives at the bottom of our creeks? Would you like to find out? Join us in the creeks as we look for benthic macroinvertebrates, bottom-dwelling bugs that tell us about creek health. No experience necessary. We welcome volunteers to join us in this event, but space is limited. RSVP to Helen Dickson (helen@thewatershedproject.org) to learn more and ensure your spot.

Garber Park Stewards

Saturday, November 21, 10 am to noon, Garber Park

Join us as we continue to work in our restoration sites removing invasive weeds to give new growth of natives its best chance for survival. Depending on the weather we could be embarking on some trail work: shoring up the trails and adding new steps in the steeper parts of the trail.

Meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance at 10 am. We will decide which activities are most needed. We provide water, snacks, gloves, and tools. Wear long sleeves and pants and shoes with good treads. Directions: www.garberparkstewards.org for map and google directions. From the intersection of Ashby Avenue and Claremont Avenue go up towards Grizzly Peak Boulevard approximately .4 mile to a turn-out on the South side. Look for the Garber Park Stewards sign. Easily accessible by AC Transit Bus #49. Exit at the stop at Claremont/Ashby. Follow the directions above to the Claremont Avenue entrance. For more information contact Shelagh garberparkstewards@gmail.co



Monarch butterfly caterpillar on milkweed at Point Isabel.
Photo by Jane Kelly.

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION IN OCTOBER

The City of Richmond has a great opportunity for residents and volunteers to improve city owned land that is in need of care. Called the "Adopt-A-Spot" program, volunteers can transform an empty field into a community garden, clean up trash or, as Pt. Isabel stewards and volunteers have done with the sliver of land at the corner of Central Avenue and Rydin Road, remove trash and weeds and plant with a variety of native plants.

One of the biggest challenges in our Adopt-A-Spot (that is under the stewardship of Margot) is the removal of hairy crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*). Before we got started there the City of Richmond used an herbicide on the grass which knocked it down but it didn't take long for it to come roaring back. Not at all a surprise! We eventually tarped the grass and covered the biodegradable weed barrier with mulch but, while it seemed to be contained under the tarp, it pushed through the tarp and mulch at the seams and the edges and continued to grow. Our latest strategy is to pull all the grass that is poking through and around the tarp, add a new layer of tarping material and re-mulch. In our second work party in October, the crew used hand tools to dig out masses of the grass and ended up with 8 large bags of it that we will dispose of ensuring that none of the seeds are allowed to germinate.

Steward Rob continues his fantastic work removing trash from all along the trail and beyond. Point Isabel dog walkers have thanked us for Rob's work and told us he has inspired them to do the same and to keep the marsh and the trail as clean as possible. We are getting to know a number of very cute and friendly dogs when their companions stop to chat with us.

The toyon berries are in various stages of pale orange up to bright red and we know that cedar waxwings and robins will arrive there soon to enjoy the bounty. More monarch caterpillars are feeding on the narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) and we were delighted to find two of them on showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*). Bumblebees and butterflies are visiting the marsh gum-plant (*Grindelia stricta*).

Stewards, volunteers, and the EBRPD are all pitching in to make our section one of the Bay Trail's best habitats in the whole park system!

Jane and Tom Kelly



Above, Point Isabel volunteer Rob; below the crabgrass crew at Point Isabel. Photos by Jane Kelly.



FIELD TRIP IN NOVEMBER

Friday, November 27, 9:30 am, Buy Nothing Day

Meet at the Trudeau Training Center just south of the intersection of Skyline and Crestmont in westernmost Redwood Regional Park. We will start through the Serpentine Prairie, and then take the Golden Spike Trail downhill. When we have nearly reached the main stream channel by the entry kiosk, we will cross Redwood Road to proceed on the MacDonald Trail to more open country. This is a beginner-level, general field trip, and I will make time for folks who want to stop to test plant-keying skills, take photos, or look at bryophytes. Depending on weather and energy levels, perhaps we will return to the Trudeau Center by the longer but more gradual ascent along Toyon, Baccharis and West Ridge Trails. If you wish, you may RSVP via Meetup.com/ebcnps. Rain will move the trip to Saturday.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE GARDENS FOR MAY TOUR

I am a member of East Bay CNPS. I am in the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and am chair of our May Garden tour on May 6 and 7, 2016. We have looked for drought tolerant and California Native plant gardens during the past several years. I ask members who have a garden fitting that

PRINTED BAY LEAF, ELECTION OF OFFICERS COMING UP

We have one printed Bay Leaf a year because it contains the ballot for chapter officers. There are five elected officers: president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, and

JEPSON/UC HERBARIA NEED VOLUNTEERS

Curatorial volunteers needed at the University and Jepson Herbaria. One Saturday each month is a Group Volunteer Day, where you can learn more about the California flora, gain first-hand experience with herbarium techniques, provide much-needed assistance with the specimens that are the raw data on which our knowledge of the California flora is based, and socialize with fellow native plant enthusiasts. From 10 am to 4 pm (participants need not stay the whole time) we mount, sort, and file a backlog of plant collections from California and around the world, some decades old. No previous herbarium experience is necessary, but a level of dexterity and attention to detail is valued. The next volunteer day is November 7. Later volunteer days are December

Facets of *Phacelia*

Phacelia leaf

Almost soft when you rub it one way

Hirsute, sand-papery when you rub it the other way

Stinging when you touch it head on

The many facets of *Phacelia* leaf

Touch it with care and you will understand it

Margot Cunningham

Driving Directions: From Highway 13, exit at Joaquin Miller Road and proceed uphill on Joaquin Miller all the way to its other end at the traffic light intersection with Skyline. If you proceed straight through the light you will be on southbound Skyline. The first building on the left side of Skyline (and the only one for several blocks) is the Trudeau Training Center. Street parking is legal here, but you can also park in the lot. Meet next to the south end of the parking lot.

Mass Transit Directions: From Fruitvale BART, take AC Transit # 39 all the way uphill on Lincoln, when it will turn south on Skyline. The # 39 bus stops at Fruitvale and MacArthur, a convenient place for transfers, on its way to Skyline. Get off at Crestmont and Skyline, practically across the street from the Trudeau Training Center.

description in the southern Walnut Creek, Danville or Alamo area to contact me.

Tena Gallagher
925 878-5161 cell
mstena@gmail.com

corresponding secretary. If you would like to suggest or to nominate someone for an office, please contact Delia Taylor, who is chair of the nominating committee.

5, February 6, March 5, April 16, and May 7. The University and Jepson Herbaria are in the Valley Life Sciences Building on the UC Berkeley campus. The entrance is on the ground floor of the atrium, in front of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. The downtown Berkeley BART station is nearby, as are many bus lines, and free parking can generally be found along streets north of campus (the posted 2-hour time limit is in effect only on weekdays). Individual volunteers are welcome during our regular hours as well (M-F, 8 am-5 pm). For more information call 510-642-2465.

Margot Cunningham



Margot Cunningham (left) at the plant fair. Photo by Janice Bray

2016 CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL

\$10,165 has been raised so far for the 2016 Conservation Analyst Fund. We are pleased to have a good start to reach our goal of \$40,000. It is gratifying to see many familiar names among the donors who have given generously and repeatedly over the last 10 years.

We urge all lovers of our local native plants and their habitats to contribute to the fund which will allow us to hire a professional conservation analyst. Interviews will be conducted soon for the half-time position.

It is easy to donate using Paypal on the Chapter website (www.ebcnps.org) or you may write a check to CNPS, P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705. All contributions are tax-deductible

Many thanks to the following donors to the 2016 conservation analyst fund.

John Alcorn
Bruce Baldwin
Joy Barnitz and Douglas Stinson
Leslie Bartholic and Jacob Van Akkereno
David Bigham and Howard Arendtson
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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

Individual, \$45

Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$300

Benefactor, \$600

Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Limited Income or student, \$25.00

Other _____